



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

WASTEWATER UTILITY DEPARTMENT

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May 17, 2007

HAND DELIVERED AND VIA EMAIL

Mr. Michael Gearheard, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, OW-130
Seattle, WA 98101 83814

Re: Comments on Draft Permit for City of Coeur d'Alene
NPDES Permit No. ID-002285-3

Dear Mr. Gearheard:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft NPDES permit for the City of Coeur d'Alene's wastewater treatment facility.

The City of Coeur d'Alene has long been committed to improving water quality in the Spokane River. The City was a party with Region 10 on the 1989 Memorandum of Agreement for the Spokane River Phosphorus Management Plan. The City was also an active contributing participant in the Spokane River Collaboration since its inception in 2005. We have looked to that process, and to the anticipated 2007 dissolved oxygen (DO) TMDL in Washington, as an appropriate watershed-based means to address nutrient loading to the river.

The City of Coeur d'Alene remains committed to this process and again asks Region 10 to defer this permit pending final adoption of the TMDL, and for fair and equitable treatment of Coeur d'Alene along with other dischargers to the Spokane River. Notwithstanding this fundamental disagreement, the City is generally supportive of the draft permit and appreciates the work of the Region on this endeavor.

The City does, however, object to the imposition of final effluent limitations for ammonia during the summer months without a reasonable compliance schedule. Coeur d'Alene's current treatment plant will have a very difficult time meeting this limit prior to the capital improvements planned to achieve the final limits for the DO-related parameters during the remaining months of the year. It is the City's position that EPA should not issue a permit under which the City is going to have limited control over compliance with an effluent limitation. EPA should recognize that these DO-related limits are being set to ensure that the three Idaho municipalities do not collectively cause or contribute to the nonattainment of downstream water

quality standards for DO set by Washington State. EPA has flexibility in making this determination and in setting the timeframe for accomplishing any required controls and limits.

Accordingly, the City respectfully requests the following:

That EPA allow a reasonable compliance schedule for summer ammonia limits.

That EPA allow for discharge offsets and effluent trading where it is able to achieve reductions in phosphorus loading from nonpoint sources. This has been an important consideration in development of the Spokane River TMDL and should be available to Coeur d'Alene.

That EPA review its reasonable potential analysis for heavy metals using more recent discharge data and not include numeric limits for silver and zinc.

In addition to the above-stated requests, the City renews its April 2, 2007 request to Director Miller that EPA order the public comment period reopened to expedite the decision-making process as provided for in 40 CFR 124.14.

These requests and other comments are set forth in the attached detailed comments. I appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Sid Fredrickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

H. Sid Fredrickson
Wastewater Superintendent

Cc: John Tindall, P.E., IDEQ
Roger Tinkey, P.E. IDIS
Brian Nickel, P.E., EPA